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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

A FRESH LOOK AT FLOWERS

A FRESH LOOK AT FLOWERS

Remember when, if you wanted some flowers for someone special or a plant to spruce up your office, you headed for the florist's shop? The florists are still there, of course, but today's consumer is just as likely to carry home plants and flowers from a drugstore, supermarket, or even a hardware store.

The fact that the average shopper is now surrounded by previously unheard-of places to buy ornamental plants is probably as good an indication as any of the booming floriculture market that's developed in the United States.

To better reflect this growth and the changing needs of data users, SRS worked closely with representatives of such major industry groups as the Society of American Florists, Florists Transworld Delivery Association, and Bedding Plants, Inc. and came up with some major adjustments in its annual survey of flowers and foliage plants.

Up until now, the yearly count spanned 22 States, gathering

production data, sales figures, and planting intentions for several varieties of carnations, chrysanthemums, and roses, as well as gladioli and foliage plants.

But starting with the January 1977 survey, SRS added seven more crops and five more States. Results, released in the March 4 Flowers and Foliage Plants report, carried first-time figures on potted poinsettias, lilies, hydrangeas, geraniums, cut snapdragons, and both flowering and vegetable bedding plants. The five new States: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, and Virginia.

SRS field offices in the 27 States collected the information through mail questionnaires, telephone, and personal interviews with commercial growers who sell at least \$10,000 in floriculture crops each year, and who produce at least one of the 16 crops surveyed.

While SRS expanded its floriculture coverage this year, it also began gathering the data a bit more selectively. Using a new



"limited State" plan, the January flower and foliage survey began collecting information on individual crops only from those major producing States, which in combination, account for 95 percent of total production.

Reason for the shift: to hold down costs and reduce the burden on survey respondents. Previously, commercial growers in all 22 States in the program were asked about all nine crops then surveyed. Now growers in Minnesota, for example, no longer have to take time to answer queries about carnations and gladioli, since the State produces relatively small amounts of each.

Commercial growers also didn't have to answer production questions this past January. These were dropped in favor of reporting only the number of plants and blooms actually sold—data that industry contacts agreed would prove more useful in production and marketing decisions.

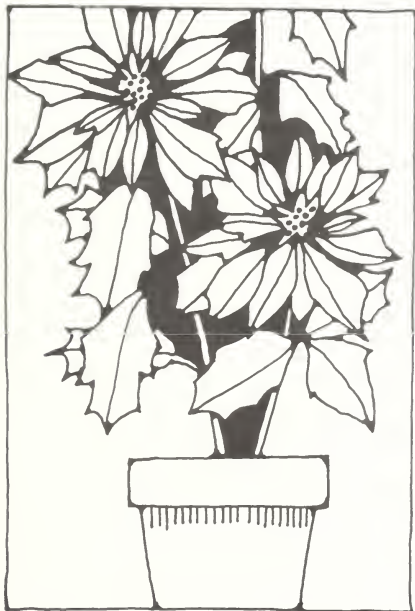
Another regular feature of the

floriculture survey—intentions for the coming year—took a new turn as well. Starting this year, growers reported how many square feet they intended to devote to individual crops rather than the actual number of pots and plants they planned to produce. When compared with the area used for growing in 1976, these data yield a look at what to expect in 1977.

The various changes in the floriculture survey—especially the addition of seven crops and five extra States—limit some of the comparisons that can be made with previous years.

However, growers of the eight flower crops for which there are previous data reported the wholesale value of their flowers climbed 10 percent in 1976 to \$259 million. Only standard mums showed a slight decline.

As in 1975, the wholesale value of foliage plants shot up faster than for any other crop, advancing 28 percent last year to \$236 million. That brought the combined tally for



the nine crops previously surveyed to \$495 million, a gain of \$65 million over 1975.

The addition of seven new crops upped the 1976 wholesale value of all 16 varieties combined to around \$703 million. Cut and potted flowers made up \$347 million, or just about half the total, with bedding and foliage plants accounting for the remainder.

As in nearly every year since SRS began keeping track of ornamental crops in 1957, California supplied the Nation's biggest share, with a total crop valued at \$200 million. More carnations, chrysanthemums, roses, poinsettias, potted lilies, and vegetable bedding plants came from California last year than any other State.

Florida retained its traditional No. 2 ranking, selling the most gladioli and foliage plants. Total worth of Florida's ornamentals: around \$147 million.

On a square foot basis, vegetable

bedding plants—one of the newcomers to the program—proved the most valuable crop surveyed, earning growers an average of \$3.10. Potted mums and tea roses stood not far behind at \$2.99 a square foot. Gladioli made big strides in 1976, posting a \$226-per-acre increase to \$2,069.

SRS contacted nearly 5,000 growers—roughly 1,200 more than a year earlier—to put together its latest profile of the flower and foliage plant industry.

The addition of more States and crops clearly helped jack up the total. But more significantly, all but two States previously covered had more respondents this time. Since all these growers claimed over \$10,000 in gross sales, that's a good indication of the continuing boom in ornamentals.

The table below provides more particulars about 1976's flower and foliage crops and offers a glimpse of what's coming up this year.

MORE THAN A BUDDING BUSINESS

Crop	Producers	Value of sales ¹		Production area	
		1975	1976	1976	Intended 1977
	No.	Million dollars		1,000 square feet	
Carnations, standard	539	43.2	45.6	28,768	27,959
Carnations, miniature	221	4.7	5.6	2,706	3,012
Chrysanthemums, standard	1,029	29.4	29.3	22,441	21,511
Chrysanthemums, pompon	1,126	31.1	34.2	37,412	34,520
Chrysanthemums, potted	1,339	42.2	52.9	17,689	17,903
Gladioli	77	17.1	17.2	² 8,330	² 8,183
Roses, hybrid tea	230	54.3	58.7	23,420	22,482
Roses, sweetheart	192	13.8	15.7	5,240	5,078
Foliage plants	1,685	184.9	235.8	116,299	125,455
Snapdragons	572	³	2.8	2,479	2,401
Poinsettias, potted	1,747	³	35.5	21,572	23,169
Geraniums, potted	2,234	³	30.4	14,816	15,814
Lilies, potted	1,219	³	13.9	5,792	6,067
Hydrangeas, potted	448	³	5.0	2,950	3,003
Bedding plants, flowering	2,541	³	62.0	31,870	33,170
Bedding plants, vegetable	2,343	³	58.0	15,245	15,681

¹Equivalent gross wholesale value of all crops except foliage. Foliage data based on net value of sales.

²Acres.

³Not available.

LURING BACK THE CITY FOLKS

"We'd like to move out to the country because we really enjoy the lifestyle there. But with gas prices what they are, it just doesn't seem practical anymore."

Sentiments like that, say USDA demographers, could slow down or even reverse the back-to-the-country movement that's swept the United States since the early 1970's.

Why? Because nonmetro people use a lot more gasoline than city folks. Not only must they travel farther to work, shopping, doctors, and other services, but they generally lack the alternative methods of public transportation that urbanites can fall back on if gas supplies tighten and prices begin soaring.

Barring a severe shortage of oil and gasoline, however, chances are good that the urban-to-rural movement will continue well into the next decade. Demographers hasten to add, though, that the length and extent of the trend are hard to predict.

Here's what's developed so far. . . . Between 1970 and 1975, rural areas and small towns grew by more than 3½ million people—a gain of 6.6 percent, versus 4.1 percent in metropolitan areas.

Some of the growth stems from the continuing spillover from large urban areas into neighboring nonmetro counties, where population climbed nearly 7½ percent during the first half of the 1970's.

But suburban sprawl doesn't explain the whole phenomenon. Rural counties that do not border on metro areas swelled by 5.7 percent during the same period, well ahead of the national growth rate of 4.8 percent.

At the same time, this increasing preference for a rural place to live should not be mistaken for a back-to-the-farm movement. During the first half of this decade, the U.S. farm population dwindled by about 850,000 or nearly 9 percent. So while more and more Americans have been putting down roots in rural areas, a growing number of them are not farmers.

Roughly half the migration to nonmetro counties in 1970-75 was to "retirement counties"—identified as those having a net immigration between 1960 and 1970 of at least 15 percent who were aged 60 and over in 1970. During 1970-75, population in these counties grew by three times the national rural average.

WHERE THE GROWTH IS

Residence	Population		Net migration		
	1970	1975	Increase	1960-70	1970-75
			1970-75		
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands	
U.S. TOTAL	203,305	213,053	4.8	3,001	2,466
Metro	148,881	155,037	4.1	5,997	625
Nonmetro	54,424	58,016	6.6	-2,996	1,841
Adjacent counties ¹	28,070	30,156	7.4	-724	1,127
Nonadjacent counties	26,354	27,860	5.7	-2,273	713

¹Nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas

FARMLAND VALUES SPIRAL HIGHER

After checking USDA's latest figures on farmland values, prospective buyers may find themselves wishing they had made the big purchase a year earlier.

Not that prices were any bargain back then. As of February 1976, buyers were shelling out an average of \$390 an acre, or roughly 14 percent more than the year before. But in the year ended this past February, average U.S. farmland prices shot up an even steeper 17 percent to \$456 an acre.

Biggest increases centered on the Lake States and Corn Belt, where all but two of the eight States registered gains of 25 percent or more. Even the two States—Missouri and Wisconsin—beat the national average with advances of 18 and 19 percent, respectively.

Illinois set the pace for the Nation with a 36-percent hike in the value of its farmland. An acre that sold for a little over \$1,000 last year bore a

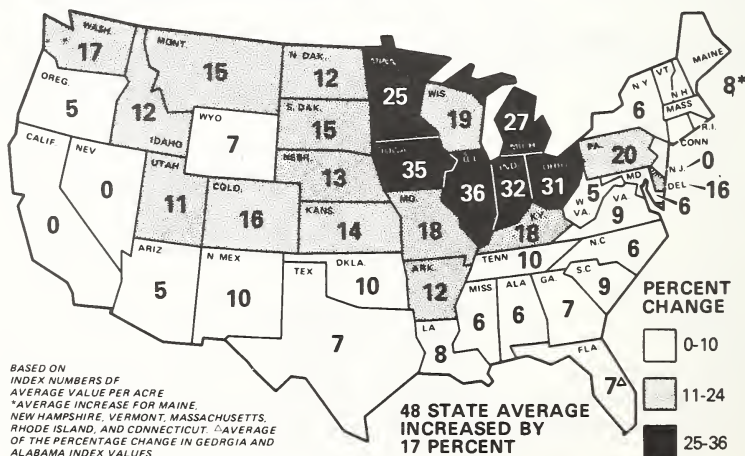
price tag averaging \$1,450 this past February. Illinois, incidentally, was the only Corn Belt State where land prices ranged over \$1,000 an acre in early 1970. But by this February it had been joined by all the other States in the Corn Belt except Missouri.

At the other end of the spectrum, land values advanced the least in the Southwest, Southeast, and Northeast. Three States—California, Nevada, and New Jersey—bucked the trend completely with no increases at all.

But while it cost no more than last year to buy an acre of farmland in New Jersey, that State remained the Nation's most expensive, with an average acre going for \$2,051. Connecticut came in close behind at \$2,024. Meantime, Nevada replaced New Mexico this year as the least expensive place in the 48 States to shop for land, with prices hovering at \$94 an acre.

PERCENT CHANGE IN AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM REAL ESTATE PER ACRE

February 1976 - February 1977



COMING UP: A STOPOVER FOR FOREIGN CATTLE

On an isolated little island at the tip of the Florida Keys, construction crews labor on a project that's been long awaited by U.S. cattle breeders.

The island is Fleming Key. The project: an offshore animal import center. Slated for completion in January 1979, the facility will, for the first time, allow U.S. firms to safely import breeding cattle and other animals directly from countries afflicted by foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest, and other animal diseases that could devastate the U.S. livestock industry.

Currently, cattle breeders seeking exotic breeds to improve their herds may import animals from only a relative handful of FMD-free countries, or else go through the expensive process of having animals from other areas pass through a quarantine system in an FMD-free nation before entering the United States.

Specifications for the housing, care, and feeding of up to 500 cattle that must be isolated for 5 months under conditions of maximum security and sanitation were developed by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which will operate the import center.

Blueprints for the center show facilities for veterinary examinations, laboratory testing, dipping, and daily cleaning, as well as a water supply system using desalinized sea water and an environmentally safe waste disposal system.

In 1971, Fleming Key was chosen over a number of possible sites because of its ideal location more than 100 miles off the Florida coast. Also, the 16-acre site lies within the Key West Naval Base, an area not generally accessible to the public.

Before being shipped to this country, cattle and other animals will undergo a pre-export screening at a foreign isolation facility similar to the Fleming Key complex. After passing this inspection, up to 400 cattle at a time will be loaded aboard ships destined for Fleming Key and 5 months of isolation and testing.

Roughly 100 U.S. cattle will share the import facility with the new arrivals. Their purpose: to act as "sentinels" against any foreign diseases that may have gone undetected before shipment.

QUALITY CHECKS ON TRITICALE

You've probably heard of U.S. No. 2 rye or No. 1 hard winter wheat. Now there's a similar set of standards for defining the quality of triticale, a grain that combines the characteristics of both wheat and rye.

In announcing the new standards, which became effective May 1, USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service noted that while triticale is not widely produced in the United States, it does have some potential as a commercial crop.

Developed around the turn of the century, triticale was first grown commercially in this country in 1970. Currently, the crop grows on an estimated 200,000 acres, and ends up mainly as an animal forage and as a base for flour used in baked goods.

Under the new standards, samples of triticale taken or submitted for official inspection are graded U.S. No. 1, 2, 3, or 4, or U.S. Sample Grade. Grades are determined in much the same way as for wheat and rye, using such factors as minimum test weight per bushel, the amount of heat-damaged kernels, the number of shrunken or broken kernels, and how much foreign material—including wheat and rye—appears in the sample.

STREAMCLEANING MADE EASY

Ponds that can clean streams? It might sound strange, but scientists in Idaho are making it happen.

They've built small ponds to capture the sediment that's carried back to rivers and streams by irrigation runoff water. Sediment, the biggest polluter of our natural waterways, not only clogs streams, but fills reservoirs, destroys spawning areas for fish, and leaves deposits that reduce the carrying capacity of irrigation canals.

In irrigated areas like the test site in Idaho, most sediment is topsoil that has eroded from farm fields. During the irrigating season, the experimental ponds, designed and monitored by agricultural engineers with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), trapped more than 70 percent of the soil particles that had washed down from irrigated cropland.

The sediment ponds work by simply interrupting the return flow of irrigation water. As the flow enters the pond, it's quickly and uniformly dispersed, thus reducing its forward speed and allowing the sediment particles to settle out. The water leaving the pond is then free enough of these impurities to be returned to the irrigation system.

ARS engineers say that the sediment ponds should be at least four times longer than they are wide, with a typical rectangular pond measuring 200 feet by 50 feet. A triangular pond can be used as well, if the flow enters at one of its three points.

Depth should be greatest—usually about 4 feet—where the flow enters. Reason is to provide sufficient storage space for larger particles like sand and silt, which settle out quite quickly. The pond may become shallower at its outlet if it grows

wider at the same time. This reduces the distance that smaller particles have to settle and slows the speed at which they approach the outlet.

As it leaves the pond, the water passes through a grate-like barrier that further slows its exit and traps more small particles. The captured sediment can later be recovered and used to fill low spots and gullies, and to level off sloping fields to fight further erosion runoff.



Scientists inspect two newly built ponds that will be monitored for sediment trapping efficiency.



This pond, measuring 50 by 4 by 200 feet, traps sediment from a contributing area of 70 acres. Flow averages about 110 acre-feet a year, and roughly 90 percent of the incoming sediment has been trapped.



During the summer irrigation season, the Snake River is made up mostly of irrigation return flow. Sediment ponds capture the soil particles washed from irrigated fields, greatly improving the river's water quality.

SURVEYSCOPE

To give our readers a clearer picture of the vast scope of SRS activities, Agricultural Situation presents a series of articles on special surveys undertaken in various States. While these are not national surveys, they are important to the agriculture in individual States.

"Not all farmers agree that blackbirds constitute a major nuisance in this State," claims Bob Hobson, Tennessee agricultural Statistician, "but producers who responded to our blackbird damage survey reported losses totaling \$23.5 million last year."

Hobson's office conducted the survey last October at the request of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, which wanted a reliable estimate of the impact of blackbird damage on the State's farm economy.

Questionnaires designed to determine the dollar value of blackbird

damage, the extent to which the birds have inconvenienced Tennessee farmers, and the trend in bird numbers were mailed to over 5,200 randomly selected farm operators in 72 counties thought to have the largest blackbird populations.

Enumerators collected additional information by either phoning or personally visiting a portion of those farmers who failed to return the mail questionnaires. Data were later expanded to cover the remaining 23 counties in Tennessee to arrive at an estimate for the entire State.

After a preliminary summary by



Tennessee farmers reported that blackbirds ruined 11 percent of their 1976 grain crop. . .

Hobson's office, survey findings were released at a press conference called by Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Edward S. Porter on December 10.

The figures showed that damage attributed to blackbirds last year averaged out to \$190 for every farmer in Tennessee. Grain producers claimed losses equaling 11 percent of the State's entire grain crop, or a little over one out of every 10 acres planted in 1976.

Farmers reported that blackbirds did the most damage to seedlings. Their responses indicate that \$9.3 million were lost last year due to reduced yields or the expense of replanting after birds had pulled grain seedlings out of the ground.

Among mature grain crops, producers estimated yield and quality losses totaling about \$5.3 million. Farmers reported that another \$4.7 million worth of grain was either eaten or spoiled by blackbirds as it sat in feedlots and similar areas. Meantime,

cattle and hog producers blamed \$3.1 million in losses to diseases carried and spread by the birds.

Asked to characterize the nuisance blackbirds caused on their farms, only 9 percent of the producers called it "severe." Another 26 percent reported a "moderate" inconvenience, while 35 percent said the birds posed a "slight" nuisance. Still another 30 percent reported that blackbirds hadn't been a problem at all.

"For a subjective survey such as this one," says Hobson, "we can assume that the amount of damage reported may, in some cases, be influenced by the respondent's emotional reaction to the blackbird issue. Or course, overstatements by some producers may be offset by understatements from others, but it's hard to tell to what extent.

"However, our survey certainly makes it clear that many Tennessee farmers consider blackbirds a source of significant losses to their farming operations."



...and either ate or spoiled some \$4.7 million worth of grain left sitting in feedlots

Briefings

RECENT REPORTS BY USDA OF ECONOMIC, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FARMERS.

FROM THE WORLD'S DAIRY. . Milk output in 37 major producing countries climbed to a record 390 million tons last year, a gain of 2% over 1975. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service reports that a similar increase appears in the offing this year. Largely responsible for the new high in 1976 were the United States and European Community, as well as a larger-than-expected output in the Soviet Union. Meantime, the world's dairy surplus wears on, particularly in the EC, where butter and stocks of nonfat dry milk will continue to pile up throughout 1977 unless massive disposal programs are reinstated. Cheese stocks in the EC may fare a bit better this year, with output seen more in line with demand.

ON TOP AGAIN. . During fiscal 1976, Illinois again moved the biggest share of U.S. farm products into the export market. With sales valued at \$2.4 billion, Illinois headed a list of 10 States that together contributed \$6 of every \$10 worth of the total \$22.8 billion in farm goods shipped to foreign buyers. Iowa retained its No. 2 ranking, with sales estimated at \$1.8 billion, followed by Texas (\$1.5 billion), California (\$1.5 billion), Kansas (\$1.3 billion), Nebraska (\$1.1 billion), Indiana (\$1.1 billion), Minnesota (\$0.9 billion), North Carolina (\$0.8 billion), and Ohio (\$0.8 billion).

WATERWORKS. . Weed control isn't just a landlubber's problem. Earlier this year, USDA's Agricultural Research Service announced a joint research project with the Florida Department of Natural Resources aimed at curbing harmful aquatic weeds. Specifically, the scientists are after the hydrilla, a pest weed that's well established in Florida and beginning to pop up elsewhere in the United States. The hydrilla is a submerged weed that chokes ponds, lakes, streams, and canals, thereby clogging drainage for flood control, hindering irrigation, and seriously restricting the use of water for navigation, wildlife, and recreation. Scientists will evaluate various chemicals for their weed-killing potential and their possible compatible use with an exotic fish called the white amur, which eats hydrilla plants. Ultimately, researchers hope to efficiently manage the fish as a predator of hydrilla.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE. . . U.S. smokers puffed a record 616 billion cigarettes last year, 1½% more than in 1975. Population growth explains the increase, as use on a per-adult basis remained about the same at 4,110 cigarettes, or around 205 packs. Experts say that total cigarette use will probably climb again in 1977 due to further population increases.

HEARTY APPETITES. . . Last year, the index of per capita food consumption advanced nearly 3%, topping the 1972 record by more than a percentage point. Livestock products supplied most of the increase, with record large production and lower prices boosting beef consumption 7%, and pork use rebounding 6% after a sharp drop in 1975. But poultry proved the real leader, with per capita use climbing 8½% over a year earlier. Among crop products, vegetable oils, cereal products, and vegetables all posted good gains. U.S. consumers also dipped into the sugar bowl with heightened gusto last year, as sugar use rose 6% per person after soaring prices cut consumption in 1974 and 1975.

AND HEFTY FOOD BILLS. . . American consumers spent just under \$200 billion on food last year, up 7% from 1975. The increase reflects both a significant gain in total food use, and a 3% hike in retail food prices (the smallest hike, incidentally, since 1971). Food bills also took a smaller chunk of disposable personal income in 1976—16.8%, versus 17.1% the year before. Roughly \$150 billion of the total outlay went for food eaten at home, with the remaining \$50 billion spent at restaurants, fast food outlets, and other places away from home.

BEEF IN ABUNDANCE. . . Last year, commercial beef production in the United States reached a record 25.7 billion pounds, topping the previous record in 1975 by 8%. The accelerated output held fed cattle prices to their lowest annual average since 1972. For the first half of 1977, USDA economists see continued large beef output. But later this year, production is expected to drop below the record volume available during the last half of 1976. Hog slaughter is also seen slowing a bit in second-half 1977. This tightening meat supply later in the year is expected to strengthen both farm and retail prices.

A BETTER WAY TO HEAT WATER. . . Scientists at Michigan State University, under a cooperative agreement with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, will be looking to the sun as a way to heat water for food processing plants in the Midwest. The scientists will survey the hot

water requirements of meat, milk, fruit, and vegetable processors, investigating the possible fossil fuel savings and feasibility of installing solar water heaters under midwestern climatic conditions. Also forthcoming will be recommendations for designing and building a solar water heating system for processing milk.

MORE MILK IN '76. . .U.S. milk production advanced 4½% last year to over 120 billion pounds—the highest level in over a decade. Increased output per cow, which climbed 541 pounds to a record 10,893 pounds, helped explain the bigger volume, as the average annual number of milk cows retreated slightly to 11 million head. As usual, Wisconsin was the leading producer with 20.3 billion pounds, followed by California, New York, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. Together, the five States accounted for 49% of all milk produced in the United States last year.

TRADE WITH TAIWAN. . .USDA economists say U.S. farm exports to Taiwan could hit the \$1 billion mark in—or even before—1980. Dependent on foreign aid programs until only a little over a decade ago, the country has emerged as the third biggest buyer of U.S. farm goods in the Far East, trailing only Japan and South Korea. Unable to expand their own production, the Taiwanese look to the U.S. mainly for wheat, corn, soybeans, cotton, tobacco, and cattle hides.

NEW HIGH FOR HOPS. . .U.S. hop stocks are building once again after producers harvested their biggest crop in a quarter of a century last year. As of March 1, says SRS's Crop Reporting Board, growers, dealers, and brewers were holding a record 75.3 million pounds of hops, 5% more than a year earlier, and 12% over the 1975 tally. As usual, brewers reported the biggest holdings, estimated at 63.5 million pounds, or 84% of the total inventory. Growers' stocks, at 380,000 pounds, amounted to only around half their year-earlier level.

HOPS AROUND THE WORLD. . .Despite bumper crops in the U.S. and Soviet Union, world hop production in 1976 declined for the third straight year. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service now puts last year's crop at 104,700 metric tons, down 6% from 1975 and 13% shy of the 1973 record. Blamed for the reduction is last year's extended drought in Europe, the withdrawal of a number of smaller producers from hop production, and the shift of some hop area into more profitable crops. Despite the drawdown, world hops remain in surplus supply, a situation intensified by a shift to higher yielding alpha varieties that produce the same amount of beer as larger amounts of more traditional varieties.

Statistical Barometer

Item	1975	1976	1977—latest available data	
Farm Food Market Basket:¹				
Retail cost (1967=100)	174	175	179	February
Farm value (1967=100)	187	179	181	February
Farmer's share of retail cost (percent)	42	40	39	February
Agricultural Trade:				
Agricultural exports (\$bil.)	22	² 23	2.0	February
Agricultural imports (\$bil.)	10	² 11	1.1	February
Prices:				
Consumer price index, all items (1967=100)	147.7	161.2	175.3	January
Food (1967=100)	161.7	175.4	183.4	January
Food away from home (1967=100)	159.4	174.3	192.2	January
Food at home (1967=100)	162.4	175.8	181.2	January
Meats ³	164.1	177.9	169.9	January
Beef and veal	168.5	170.0	162.1	January
Pork	161.0	196.9	180.1	January
Poultry	146.9	162.4	144.5	January
Fish	187.7	203.3	238.0	January
Eggs	160.8	157.8	197.9	January
Dairy products ⁴	151.9	156.6	171.3	January
Fats and oils ⁵	179.4	198.6	178.8	January
Hogs and Pigs:				
Hogs and pigs on farms March 1 (mil.)	40.3	40.9	44.2	March
Kept for breeding (mil.)	6.1	6.7	7.1	March
Market (mil.)	34.3	34.2	37.1	March
Sows farrowing, Dec.-Feb. (mil.)	1.8	2.0	2.3	March
Pig crop, Dec.-Feb. (mil.)	12.5	14.6	15.6	March
Pigs per litter, Dec.-Feb.	7.1	7.1	6.8	March
Farm Employment and Wage Rates:⁶				
Total employment (1967=100)	89	89	81	January
Family labor (1967=100)	83	83	78	January
Hired labor (1967=100)	92	97	89	January
Wage rates (1967=100)	190	208	229	January

¹Average annual quantities per family and single person households bought by wage and clerical workers, 1960-61, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.

²Preliminary.

³Beef, veal, lamb, mutton, pork, and processed meat.

⁴Includes butter.

⁵Excludes butter.

⁶Seasonally adjusted.



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DIANE DECKER, EDITOR

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